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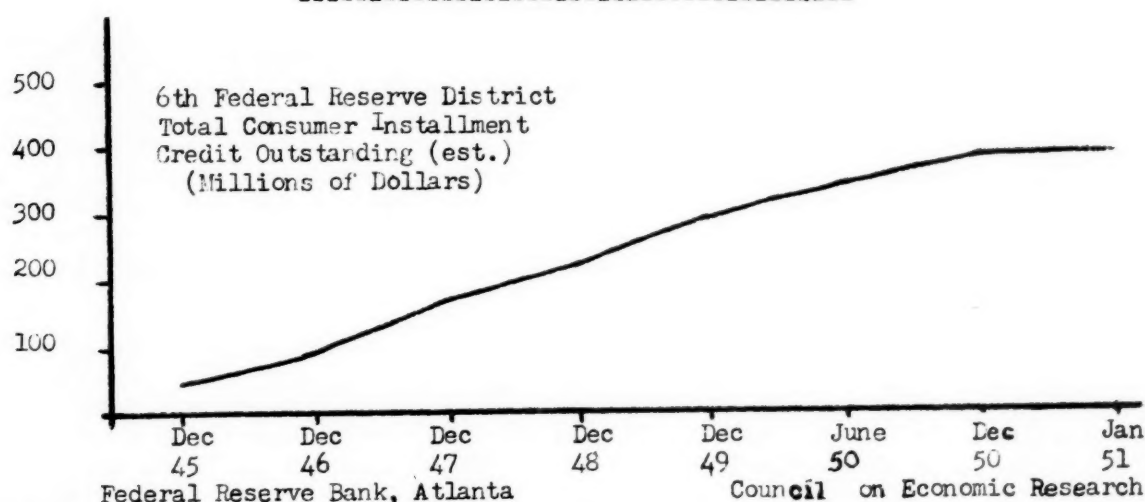
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BUSINESS INDICATORS ----- R. L. Chaffin

National economic indicators point towards a prosperity decade. This prosperity is hinged to the level of government military spending. Huge orders and outlays for national security will keep business humming. Military spending is due to rise from the 17.6 billions of 1950 to 26.8 billions in 1951 and 52.3 billions in 1952. It is anticipated that defense spending after 1955 will level off at an annual rate of 35 billions. This defense appropriation in 1952 will aggregate 11.9 billions more than the total budget in 1950. Even though such a level of government directed investment and expenditure will probably create a long prosperity, it is a prosperity subject to many perils--inflation being the most serious. To press a lid on inflation implies and necessitates control, and control is unpalatable to the American people.

Business activity in the Atlanta area is generally active and strong. However, there is found in the January data of the Georgia Department of Labor a decline in total non-farm employment (except construction and government) of 1,700 workers, the layoff in the trade group occurring primarily in retail general merchandise stores and apparel shops. Employment in most durable goods industries remained unchanged while average weekly earnings declined \$11.13.

In the Sixth District the first week in March brought a decline in total bank loans. Holdings of investment securities declined. Borrowing by the reporting banks declined to the lowest reported since December 20, 1950. Demand deposits declined \$2,000,000 for the week, and U. S. government deposits were down \$11,000,000. However, correspondent bank deposits increased 34 millions and time deposits increased slightly.

For the week ended March 3, department store sales over the nation soared 18 per cent over the period ended March 4, 1950. In Atlanta the dollar volume of sales reached a level of 28 per cent above the corresponding period in 1950.

With this continuing rise in business activity we have experienced a disproportionate decline in the value of money. Additional taxes will be necessary to equate government expenditures with revenues and to partially control inflation. Defense is a want. And it must be paid for by the people.

THE ATLANTA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT ----- G. G. Maughon

There is hardly a person in the metropolitan area of Atlanta who is not affected directly or indirectly by some service rendered by the municipal airport or by the widely distributed economic blessings of the large payrolls and their impact upon the community and the area, according to Mr. John H. Gray, General Manager of the Municipal Airport. There are 3,200 people who are regularly employed in all branches of this industry with probably the highest per capita rate of any other business in Atlanta.

It is amazing to know that about 75,000 make-up passengers here each month take advantage of the 194 daily schedules in and out. Mr. Gray estimates that about 300,000 persons pass through the temporary terminal each month either on business or sightseeing. The bale of real cotton, the facsimile Uncle Remus, the spinning wheel, and the throng of passengers going and coming are of interest to people from far away places, as well as the throngs of local people who crowd the observation platform. About one hundred classes from the schools of Georgia are among the visitors.

From the standpoint of safety, the airport has a record second to none. It is equipped with all of the modern devices for landing and taking off in all types of weather. It consists of 1,414 acres with three paved runways. For instrument landing, there is one runway of 7,860 feet in length. There is another of 6,950 feet in length, and one of 6,000 feet in length.

The operation of the airport is on a self-sustaining and operating maintenance basis. At the present time Eastern Airlines, Delta Airlines, Southern Airways, Capital Airlines, and U. S. Lines, which is a strictly cargo service, use the terminal facilities. Transient operation are also available. All of these businesses are subject to the same kinds of taxes which are levied against other companies engaged in like undertakings.

PROGRESS OF BROILER CHICK BUSINESS IN GEORGIA ----- M. D. Dunlap

Statistics released by the Georgia Crop Reporting Service of the College of Agriculture of the University of Georgia as to the present outlook of the broiler chick industries of North Georgia are most encouraging.

During the week ending Feb. 17, hatcheries placed 1,706,000 chicks with broiler producers in the North Georgia commercial area. This number was 9 per cent above the placements the previous week and 26 per cent more than for the same week last year.

Local hatchings of 1,558,000 showed a 4 per cent increase over the week before and a 25 per cent increase over one year ago. The number of eggs set by local hatcheries was 2 per cent more than the previous week and 2 per cent above the corresponding week of last year.

Hatcheries reported average price paid for hatching eggs during the week at 91 cents per dozen and an average retail price charged for chicks at \$16.75 per hundred. One year ago they paid 67 cents per dozen for hatching eggs and sold their chicks at \$12.75 per hundred.

CHICK PLACEMENT BY WEEKS -- PERIOD DECEMBER 2 TO MARCH 3 (1)

Date Week Ending	Eggs Set 1949-50:1950-51		Chicks Hatched Placed in Georgia 1949-50:1950-51		Inshipments of Chicks 1949-50:1950-51		Total Placed on Farms 1949-50:1950-51	
	Thousands		Thousands		Thousands		Thousands	
Dec. 2	1,369	1,490	1,067	1,157	75	116	1,141	1,273
Dec. 9	1,400	1,465	998	1,121	90	141	1,088	1,262
Dec. 16	1,446	1,552	953	1,080	86	131	1,039	1,211
Dec. 23	1,485	1,465	915	987	72	83	987	1,061
Dec. 30	1,581	1,407	862	889	60	94	922	983
Jan. 6	1,519	1,542	935	1,026	65	96	1,000	1,122
Jan. 13	1,737	1,795	962	1,111	46	133	1,008	1,244
Jan. 20	1,807	1,902	1,013	1,154	90	109	1,103	1,263
Jan. 27	1,863	2,018	1,051	1,386	93	191	1,144	1,577
Feb. 3	1,881	2,149	1,137	1,429	82	138	1,219	1,567
Feb. 10	1,951	2,085	1,280	1,505	78	61	1,358	1,566
Feb. 17	2,091	2,125	1,245	1,558	107	148	1,352	1,706
Feb. 24	2,048	2,101	1,365	1,606	90	223	1,355	1,829
March 3	2,077	2,154	1,300	1,563	112	114	1,412	1,677

(1) U. S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Athens, Ga.

PRICE-WAGE MUDDLE ----- J. Whitney Bunting

The attention of national business, as well as that of Atlanta, has been largely focused upon the visible effects of the general price and wage "freeze" as well as upon the increasing requirements of civilian and defense production. The latter may require even more drastic control over the civilian economy.

Very few, if any, signs of real price control have been visible to either the businessman or the consumer and the trend in prices of most commodities has been moving steadily upward. This has been in spite of governmental statements that controls are in action and should soon stabilize the economic picture. There is a widespread feeling that the need is for a strong hard-fisted policy that could wipe away the entire Korean War price rise. Instead the Office of Economic Stabilization froze prices at an all-time high figure. The public cannot understand this action and the situation that caused it.

Close examination of the problem shows two very definite handicaps under which the price authority is operating. Prices for raw agricultural commodities sold by original producers are exempted from the terms of the law. Further because of the fact that many food prices are below the parity figure determined by the Defense Production Act, the law states that such prices cannot have ceilings until parity has been reached. Thus, a clear problem of non-control exists. The other major problem is the effect of roll-backs in prices upon wages. There is little doubt but that prices and wage control must be accomplished together. Otherwise business (or the wage earner) will face a squeeze that will drive one or the other out of operation. It is very hard to force a roll-back in wages even with a price roll-back. Wage earners do not want to relinquish a dollar advantage even with an increased purchasing power through lower prices. Thus, government administrators find their path effectively blocked against the performance of a satisfactory job.

It is expected by government leaders that the problem will be licked by July or August and wages and prices will be stabilized. But business leaders are in doubt. They fear that the problems of administration under present legal restrictions may be too heavy a burden for even Charles E. Wilson.

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